

App. No. 10/781465
Office Action Dated December 15, 2005
Amd. Dated April 14, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-13 have been editorially amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-13 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-12.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nantua et al. (US 2003/0057651). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully point out that Nantua has a publication date of March 27, 2003. The claimed invention has an effective prior art date of February 17, 2003, as it claims priority to TO 2003A000116. Therefore, Nantua is not available as prior art under 102(b). Applicants, however provide the following comments.

Claim 1 is directed to a sealing device for a wheel hub group. The sealing device comprises a first shield and a second shield. The first shield comprises a first cylindrical portion which is provided with at least one slit for being engaged by a sensor for reading a signal generated by the encoder.

Nantua fails to teach a first shield comprising a first cylindrical portion which is provided with at least one slit for being engaged by a sensor for reading a signal generated by the encoder. Nantua fails to anticipate independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 depends from independent claim 1. For the reasons discussed above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

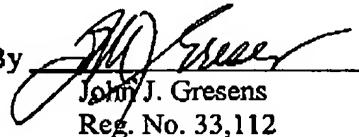
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In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, John J. Gresens, Reg. No. 33,112, at (612)371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: April 14, 2005

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG:smm